

**HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT**

October Livestock Slaughter  
U.S. & Delta States Farm Labor & Wage Rates  
Average Prices Received by Farmers-October 2004

**Louisiana Livestock Slaughter**

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during October totaled 1.1 million pounds, up 10 percent from September but 27 percent below the previous year.

There were 1,200 head of **cattle** slaughtered during October, 100 head above September but 300 head below the previous year. Average live weight was 879 pounds, up 41 pounds from the previous month but 16 pounds below October 2003. Total live weight at 1.1 million pounds was 21 percent above the previous month but 21 percent below the previous year.

**Calves** slaughtered during October totaled 700 head, unchanged from September but 500 head below the previous year. Live weight averaged 479 pounds, up 4 pounds from September and 1 pound above a year ago. Total live weight at 341,000 pounds was up 2 percent from September but 42 percent below the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during October totaled 1,600 head, unchanged from last month but 500 head below October 2003. Average live weight was 201 pounds, up 4 pounds from September and 4 pounds above the previous year. Total live weight was 330,000 pounds, up 3 percent from September but 21 percent below a year ago.

The number of sheep slaughtered during October totaled 100 head, unchanged from September but 100 head below the previous year. Live weight averaged 70 pounds, down 17 pounds from the previous month and 9 pounds below the previous year.

**United States Livestock Slaughter**

**Commercial red meat production** for the United States totaled 3.92 billion pounds in October, down 6 percent from the 4.16 billion pounds produced in October 2003.

October 2004 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays. October 2003 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

**Beef production**, at 2.11 billion pounds, was 4 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.75 million head, down 9 percent from October 2003. The average live weight was up 36 pounds from the previous year, at 1,267 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 12.4 million pounds, 24 percent below October a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 62,500 head, down 28 percent from October 2003. The average live weight was 22 pounds above last year at 330 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 1.78 billion pounds, down 7 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.97 million head, 7 percent below October 2003. The average live weight was unchanged from the previous year at 267 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 16.3 million pounds, was down 9 percent from October 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 241,400 head, 9 percent below last year. The average live weight was 134 pounds, unchanged from October a year ago.

**January to October 2004 commercial red meat production** was 37.7 billion pounds, down 4 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 9 percent from last year; veal was down 12 percent; pork was up 3 percent from last year and lamb and mutton production was down 3 percent.

**Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Meat Production**

Item	Louisiana					United States			
	Sept	October		January – October		October		January - October	
	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	Number, thousand head					Number, thousand head			
Cattle	1.1	1.5	1.2	12.6	11.3	3,009.5	2,745.7	30,384.6	27,491.0
Calves	0.7	1.2	0.7	8.5	6.3	87.2	62.5	825.3	700.7
Hogs	1.6	2.1	1.6	19.5	18.0	9,649.2	8,970.2	82,972.2	85,232.9
Sheep & Lambs	0.1	0.2	0.1	1.6	1.5	265.1	241.4	2,480.7	2,353.1
	Total live weight, thousand pounds					Total live weight, thousand pounds			
Cattle	892	1,358	1,076	11,099	9,718	3,704,306	3,479,458	37,365,442	33,941,200
Calves	334	587	341	4,277	3,078	26,881	20,645	261,366	231,035
Hogs	320	417	330	4,078	3,695	2,578,610	2,392,890	22,036,722	22,647,794
Sheep & Lambs	11	12	10	148	144	35,626	32,418	330,007	319,490
	Average live weight, pounds					Average live weight, pounds			
Cattle	838	895	879	881	860	1,231	1,267	1,230	1,235
Calves	475	478	479	503	489	308	330	317	330
Hogs	197	197	201	209	205	267	267	266	266
Sheep & Lambs	87	79	70	92	96	134	134	133	136
	Million pounds					Million pounds			
Red Meat	1.0	1.5	1.1	12.7	10.8	4,158.3	3,921.2	39,155.5	37,712.7

## Delta States Farm Labor

Farm labor estimates are made for the combined Delta states: Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. The Delta states had 33,000 hired workers on farms and ranches during the week of October 10-16, 2004. This is 2,000 more hired workers than October of last year and 2,000 more than July 2004. Of the 33,000 hired workers, workers that work 150 days or more a year account for 76 percent of the total, and workers that work 149 days or less account for the remaining 24 percent.

The average wage rate in the Delta states for all hired farm workers was \$8.17 per hour compared to \$7.48 per hour in October 2003. Delta states hired farm workers averaged \$1.13 per hour less than the average wage rate at the U.S. level. Livestock workers earned \$8.23 per hour compared to \$7.15 per hour a year earlier. Field workers were earning 77 cents per hour more this October at \$7.78, than last October.

The average numbers of hours worked, at 37.3 hours per week, was 3.2 hours fewer per week than the current U.S. average of 40.5 hours per week.

## United States Farm Labor

There were 1,173,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of October 10-16, 2004, down 2 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 851,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 322,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.30 per hour during the October 2004 reference week, up 25 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.60 per hour, up 18 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$8.91 per hour compared with \$8.64 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate at \$8.67 per hour, was up 20 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 40.5 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 1 percent from a year ago.

### Farm Labor & Wage Rates: Delta and United States

Item	Delta <sup>1</sup>			United States		
	October 2003	July 2004	October 2004	October 2003	July 2004	October 2004
<b>Hired Workers (All)</b>	31	31	33	1,197	1,304	1,173
<b>Ag Service Workers</b>	---	---	---	306	343	322
<b>Hired Farm Workers</b>	31	31	33	891	961	851
150 Days or More	20	23	25	626	637	605
149 Days or Less	11	8	8	265	324	246
<b>Average Hours Worked (Hired Farm Workers)</b>	37.0	39.1	37.3	40.2	39.2	40.5
<b>Average Wage Rate (Hired Farm Workers)</b>	\$7.48	\$7.65	\$8.17	\$9.05	\$9.04	\$9.30
<b>By Type of Worker</b>						
Field	\$7.01	\$7.26	\$7.78	\$8.42	\$8.34	\$8.60
Livestock	\$7.15	\$7.58	\$8.23	\$8.64	\$8.74	\$8.91

<sup>1</sup> Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

--- Data not published.

### October Farm Labor – 5 Year History

October	Delta States <sup>1</sup>		United States	
	Workers on Farms <sup>2/3</sup>	Farm Wage Rates <sup>4</sup>	Workers on Farms <sup>2/3</sup>	Farm Wage Rates <sup>4</sup>
	Hired (000)	\$/Hr All Hired Workers	Hired (000)	\$/Hr All Hired Workers
2004	33	\$8.17	851	\$9.30
2003	31	\$7.48	891	\$9.05
2002	38	\$7.77	935	\$8.93
2001	43	\$7.13	959	\$8.58
2000	42	\$7.06	952	\$8.29

<sup>1</sup> Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

<sup>2</sup> Includes all persons doing farm work for pay during the survey week.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes agricultural service workers.

<sup>4</sup> Includes field, livestock, supervisors, and other workers doing work for pay during the survey week.

## Prices Received Index Up

The Preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in November, at 114, based on 1990-92=100), is 1 point above October. The Crop Index remained unchanged from October while the Livestock Index increased 1 point. Producers received higher commodity prices for tomatoes, eggs, hogs, strawberries and grapes. Lower prices were received for lettuce, oranges, soybeans, corn and cattle. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of dairy, cattle and cotton offset decreased marketings of soybeans, peanuts and potatoes. The Preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 2 points from November 2003.

The Food Commodities Index increased 3 points from last month to 120. The index is unchanged from November 2003.

## Prices Paid Index Down

The November Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates is 134 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is down 1 point from October but 5 points above November 2003. Lower prices in November for feeder cattle, complete feeds, feed concentrates and feed grains, more than offset higher prices for self-propelled machinery, LP gas, feeder pigs and nitrogen fertilizers.

## Average Prices Received By Farmers

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	November 2003	October 2004	November 2004 <sup>1</sup>	November 2003	October 2004	November 2004 <sup>1</sup>
	Dollars			Dollars		
Soybeans, per bushel	7.41	5.80	5.65	7.05	5.56	5.31
Rice, per cwt	7.38	7.98	7.87	6.99	7.59	7.49
Upland Cotton, per pound	.631	.532	.475 <sup>2</sup>	.630	.495	.471 <sup>2</sup>
Hay, all, baled, per ton	n/a	n/a	n/a	81.50	89.80	86.20
Beef Cattle, per cwt <sup>3</sup>	59.10	66.50	65.00	93.40	86.10	84.20
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	86.00	98.70	97.00	99.90	91.00	89.10
Cows, per cwt <sup>4</sup>	44.00	47.60	47.00	47.70	49.90	48.60
Calves, per cwt	101.00	116.00	116.00	111.00	126.00	124.00
Broilers, live, per pound	n/a	n/a	n/a	.370	.390	.390
Eggs, All, per dozen	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.020	.503	.612
Milk, All, per cwt <sup>5</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a	14.40	15.50	15.80

<sup>1</sup> Mid-month.

<sup>2</sup> Preliminary prices are based on sales during the first half of the month.

<sup>3</sup> "Cows" and "steers and heifers" combined.

<sup>4</sup> Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

<sup>5</sup> Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

n/a = Not Available.

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